

on State-required assessments, and staff at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. The school also involves students in extracurricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests.

I applaud not only the students but also the teachers, staff, administrators, and parents of Orono Middle School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Orono Middle School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire community for this outstanding achievement.●

RECOGNIZING COOL AS A MOOSE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, across the country the holiday shopping season is in full swing. For many, holiday shopping can be a stressful time, as picking out the ideal gift can often be overwhelming. Luckily, my home State of Maine has several small businesses which offer gift solutions in a fun and festive setting. Today I wish to commend and recognize one of these small businesses, Cool As A Moose, whose retail stores offer unique and creative gifts for the holiday season and throughout the year.

Cool As A Moose first opened its doors in 1986 in the coastal town of Bar Harbor. Whether a customer longs for a moose hat or an adorable stuffed animal lobster, this small business offers customers an array of clever products and creative apparel. The company, now owned by Maine resident Kip Stone, has expanded to include stores in Freeport, Portland, and most recently Brunswick. The retailer also has an online presence and two licensed locations in Halifax and Quebec City, Canada.

The establishment of a store and headquarters in Brunswick this past May was critical, as it brought jobs to an area of Maine that recently struggled after the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Kip's tireless search for an ideal location lasted 2 years, as he sought to find an environment that would allow him to open both a store and have space for his other company, Artforms, which supplies many of the designs for the retail store. Kip selected the Old Grand City restaurant and storefront for the flagship store. With this purchase and renovation, Kip furthered a critical mission by helping to revitalize the Brunswick downtown area.

As can be seen from this small company's expansion, since its founding, this store's friendly customer service and engaging atmosphere have led to

tremendous success. Most recently, Cool As A Moose was honored as the 2011 Merchant of the Year by the Maine Merchants Association. This honor is richly deserved as this small business consistently strives to improve each community it serves through volunteering and supporting area non-profits.

Small businesses such as Cool As A Moose are the heart of the economy, and this holiday season I hope Americans will gather with me in supporting these retailers. In these tough economic times, this small firm's willingness to expand and continually strive to put local communities first is especially refreshing. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Kip Stone and everyone at Cool As A Moose for their tremendous efforts and offer my best wishes for continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JAMES BONNEAU

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator LEVIN, I wish to pay tribute to James "Jim" Bonneau, a member of the Jackson Police Department in Jackson, MI, who has been posthumously awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

Officer Bonneau was born in Canton, MI to Marc and Amy Bonneau. Growing up he always wanted to help others and become a police officer. After graduating from Canton High in 2002, he earned a degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University. In 2007, he followed his dream and joined the Jackson Police Department, which put him through Lansing Community College's Mid-Michigan Police Academy.

Bonneau excelled at the academy and graduated at the top of his class. He was well liked by the faculty and his fellow classmates. Even though he was with the department for two short years, his excellence on the job and connection with the community he served made a difference and touched many lives.

On March 9, 2010, Officer Bonneau and Blackman Township Public Safety Officer Darin McIntosh responded to a domestic disturbance call. The suspect fired multiple shots at both officers wounding Officer Bonneau in the chest and Officer McIntosh in the leg. Though mortally wounded, Officer Bonneau showed bravery and determination while he relayed critical information to central dispatch regarding the incident. His actions ensured that the responding officers knew what to expect upon entering the home. Tragically, he later died from his injuries.

Officer Bonneau's exceptional acts of bravery and presence of mind while in the line of duty earned him a well-deserved nomination and award of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery.

On behalf of the City of Jackson and the State of Michigan, we express our

gratitude to Officer Bonneau and his family for his bravery and commitment to law enforcement. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others may live in safety.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3630. An act to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes.

At 2:38 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 384. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 313. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that persons who enter into a conspiracy within the United States to possess or traffic illegal controlled substances outside the United States, or engage in conduct within the United States to aid or abet drug trafficking outside the United States, may be criminally prosecuted in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building".

H.R. 3246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building".

At 7:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At 7:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1905. An act to strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and other threatening activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2105. An act to provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran, North Korea, and Syria certain goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes.